



August 1998

VOTING INFORMATION NEWS

Vol. 8 No. 8

A roundup of voting news from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) ✓ ✓ For voters, potential voters and those who assist voters.

Myth or Fact?

The FVAP has recently had many inquiries as to whether all submitted valid absentee ballots are counted in every election. These citizens have heard that local election officials (LEOs) only count voted ballots from overseas citizens if the margin between the candidates is narrow. Many people say they have been told that some LEOs may not count the absentee ballots at all if one candidate has received a vast majority of the in-person votes cast. **THESE STATEMENTS ARE A MYTH!**

FACT: Every ballot cast, which adheres to state deadlines and requirements, whether in-person or by mail, fax or proxy is counted equally. Regardless of the medium a voter uses, LEOs include each ballot received in a timely manner from a properly registered voter as part of the final vote tally in all elections nation-wide. No properly submitted votes are ever left uncounted.

In their administration of elections, LEOs are very careful to include every valid vote. LEOs will go out of their way to be sure they count each ballot regardless of the vote plurality. The public nature of their business does not allow for mistakes to be made, as many elections each year are contested and every ballot cast is scrutinized. These individuals deserve a pat on the back for their tireless dedication!

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Federal Voting Assistance Program Office of the Secretary of Defense

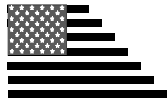
Dear United States Citizen:

As the newly installed Director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program I want to reaffirm our partnership with you in support of citizens exercising their voting opportunities under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act. To facilitate the absentee voting process for our Uniformed Services personnel (and their family members) serving around the world and U.S. citizens residing overseas, we work closely, on a non-partisan basis, with the Military Departments, Coast Guard, state and local government officials, the Department of State, U.S. Embassies and Consulates, and civic and political organizations abroad.

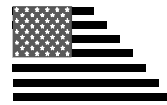
As with all U.S. citizens, absentee voters need access to information about the voting process. The Federal Voting Assistance Program strives to expand the electoral and democratic opportunities by encouraging your affiliated clubs, organizations, and corporations nationwide and abroad to participate in non-partisan voter outreach activities. We provide the materials and assistance necessary for these organizations to carry out an effective voter outreach program.

Enhancing the ability of citizens to participate in the democratic process requires dedicated efforts by individual citizens like you, communities, and the public and private sectors, engaging as partners in encouraging voting participation. On behalf of the FVAP staff, and the countless U.S. citizens you have helped to participated in the absentee voting process, I want to thank you for your continued support of the Program.

P. K. Brunelli
Director



Stateside



Legislative Update - The Federal Voting Assistance Program works with the legislatures of the states and territories to further facilitate the electoral process and help citizens covered by the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)* to exercise their right to vote. The following is legislation which has recently passed or is currently under consideration in various states effecting UOCAVA citizens:

New York: Governor George E. Pataki recently signed into law legislation that allows U.S. citizens who have never resided within the United States and have one parent with legal domicile in the State of New York to register and vote using that parent's address. These are usually first or second generation citizens who are subject to U.S. income tax and all other requirements of citizenship. Except for the fact that they have never resided in a state, they would be eligible to vote in elections for Federal office. The states of Georgia, Iowa, Tennessee and Oregon have also passed legislation allowing citizens in this predicament to claim the legal residence of a parent.

Virginia: In the November 1998 election, Virginia voters will be voting on an important domicile issue. The question that voters will see on the ballot is:

"Shall the Constitution of Virginia be amended to permit persons employed overseas, and their families, who are qualified to vote in Virginia except for having given up a home in Virginia, to continue to vote in Virginia while overseas subject to the conditions and time limits set by law?"

The law in Virginia currently reads "Residence, for all purposes of qualification to vote, requires both domicile and a place of abode." This amendment would further enfranchise Virginia residents temporarily residing overseas by allowing all citizens who are a resident of the state to vote a full ballot including Federal, State and local offices and issues.

Virginia has also recently passed legislation that will be implemented beginning with the general election in November 1999. This legislation states that:

"the State Board shall implement a system which enables eligible persons to request and receive an absentee ballot application electronically through the global information system known as the Internet. The electronic absentee ballot applications shall be in a form approved by the State Board."

This legislation will in no way affect the current usage of the Federal Post Card Application, the form presently used to request registration and/or a ballot.

Voting Assistance Officers

"To Do" This Month

[] Encourage participation in the remaining primary elections. There are 19 primaries scheduled for the months of September and October (see pg. 3). In many cases, requests for registration must be received at least 30 days prior to the election. Consult the *Voting Assistance Guide* at www.fvap.gov for state-by-state details and encourage all UOCAVA citizens to participate.

[] Make in-hand distribution of the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to as many people as possible.

[] Visit the FVAP's Web site at www.fvap.gov often for up-to-date information and materials. Most FVAP publications are now available on-line. In addition, on-line versions of this newsletter and news releases are posted on the site on a regular basis.

[] Ensure you have adequate supplies of the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB). If you are overseas, be sure to have one on hand for each person you are responsible for. Consult the April 1998 Voting Information News or page 21 and Appendix D of the *1998-1999 Voting Assistance Guide* for usage directions.

[] Post notices on bulletin boards and in high-traffic areas motivating people to register and vote. Include a point of contact name and telephone number on the notice, so interested citizens will know how to obtain additional information or materials.

[] Make sure the installation, Embassy/Consulate or organization telephone operator knows to refer callers requiring voting assistance to you.

Follow links from the FVAP website at www.fvap.gov for additional information about legislative news in your state.

Federal Voting Assistance Program

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Internet Access:
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Fax: 703-588-0108
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Note: Copying or using VIN articles in other publications, etc. is encouraged.

Where can I get Candidate Information?

With the 1998 primaries nearing completion (see below) and the general election right around the corner (Nov. 3 is less than 90 days away!), candidates have been recording messages on the DoD Voting Information Center (VIC). These recordings help people become more informed in making their voting decisions! The VIC is a toll-free service (see pg. 4)

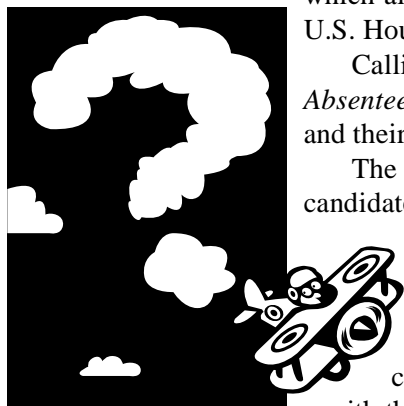
which allows citizens to hear messages, via telephone, from candidates for the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives and State Governor.

Calling the VIC is a way for citizens covered by the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)* to familiarize themselves with the candidates running for office and their positions on issues important to them.

The FVAP website at www.fvap.gov is another excellent source for information about candidates running for office. Through links to state election pages, citizen groups and major political party organizations, citizens can "surf" for election and candidate news.

Callers can also transfer directly through the VIC into the office of their incumbent U.S. Senators, U.S. Representative, Governor, State Chief Election Official and Voting Action Officers (see names below). The VIC has speech recognition capabilities, so citizens can easily cruise through a series of voice commands that allow communication with these offices.

Spread the word about the VIC so all UOCAVA citizens have the ability to stay in touch with their public officials, hear what the candidates are saying, and stay informed about elections and issues in their home state.



Remaining Primary Elections	State	State Primary Date	State Runoff Primary (if necessary)	OFFICIALS TO BE NOMINATED FOR THE Offices to be nominated for the General Election		
				FEDERAL		STATE
				U.S. Senator	U.S. Representative	Governor
	Arizona	September 8	—	Yes	6	Yes
	Connecticut	September 15	—	Yes	6	Yes
	Delaware	September 12	—	—	1	—
	District of Columbia	September 15	—	—	1 Delegate	(Mayor)
	Florida	September 1	October 1	Yes	23	Yes
	Guam	September 5	—	—	1	Yes
	Hawaii	September 19	—	Yes	2	Yes
	Louisiana	October 3	—	Yes	7	—
	Maryland	September 15	—	Yes	8	Yes
	Massachusetts	September 15	—	—	10	Yes
	Minnesota	September 15	—	—	8	Yes
	Nevada	September 1	—	Yes	2	Yes
	New Hampshire	September 8	—	Yes	2	Yes
	New York	September 15	—	Yes	31	Yes
	Rhode Island	September 15	—	—	2	Yes
	Vermont	September 8	—	Yes	1	Yes
	Virgin Islands	September 8	—	—	1	Yes
	Washington	September 15	—	Yes	9	—
	Wisconsin	September 8	—	Yes	9	Yes

Voting Action Officers

Department of State: Office of American Citizens Services

Voting Action Officer: Mr. Patrick Hegarty **tel:** (202) 647-6060 **tel FTS:** 8-647-6060, **fax:** (202) 647-6201
E-mail: hegartyph@ms1809wpo.us-state.us

Service Voting Action Officers

Dept. of the Army: Mr. Tom Feazell **tel:** (703) 325-4530 **tel DSN:** 221-4530, **fax:** (703) 325-4532, **fax DSN:** 221-4532
E-mail: feazellt@hoffman-emhl.army.mil

Dept. of the Navy: Mr. Ed Roscoe **tel:** (901) 874-4368, toll-free: (800) 368-5056 **tel DSN:** 882-4368,
fax: (901) 874-2690, **fax DSN:** 882-2690 **E-mail:** p662j@persnet.navy.mil

Dept. of the Air Force: Mr. John Lowrance **tel:** (210) 652-7849, toll-free: (800) 558-1404 **tel DSN:** 487-7849,
DSN fax 487-5982, **Commercial fax** (210) 652-5982 **E-mail:** lowrancj@hq.afpc.af.mil

Marine Corps: SSgt Cheryl Mouchette **tel:** (703) 696-2026 **tel DSN:** 426-2026, **fax:** (703) 696-2068, **fax DSN:** 426-2068
E-mail: mouchettecd@hq.usmc.mil **ELMS:** [GMHPO3:HQIHQMC]

U.S. Coast Guard: LCDR Wesley Marquardt **tel:** (202) 267-2250, **fax:** (202) 267-4600
E-mail: wmarquardt@comdt.uscg.mil

Please share this copy of VIN with others.

New Toll-free For FVAP**Dial AT&T Access Code and then 877-217-3249 for FVAP**

Country(Notes)	AT&T Access Code
Antigua (3)	1-800-872-2881
(Public Card Phones) #1	
Australia	1-800-881-011
Bahamas	1-800-872-2881
Bahrain	800-001
Barbados (13)	1-800-872-2881
Belgium (1)	0-800-100-10
Bermuda (8)	1-800-872-2881
Brazil	000-8010
Canada	1-800-225-5288
Chile	800-800-311 or 800-800-288
(Easter Island)	000-311
China, PRC (8)(Hong Kong)	800-96-1111
Colombia	980-11-0010
Costa Rica (1)	0-800-0-114-114
Denmark	8001-0010
Dominican Republic (1,10,15)	1-800-872-2881
Finland (1)	9800-100-10
France	0800 99 00 11
Germany	0130-0010
Greece (1)	00-800-1311
Hungary (1)	00 * 800-01111
Indonesia (16)	001-801-10
Ireland	1-800-550-000
Israel	1-800-94-94-949 or 1-800-92-22-222 or 1-800-93-33-333
Italy (1)	172-1011
Japan (1)	0039-111
Japan (1,8)	0066-55-111

Country(Notes)	AT&T Access Code
Korea, Republic of (1)	0030-911 or 550-HOME or 550-2USA (7)
Liechtenstein (1)	0-800-890011
Luxembourg	0-800-0111
Liechtenstein (1)	0-800-890011
Luxembourg	0-800-0111
Malaysia (11)	1-800-80-0011
Mexico (12)	95-800-462-4240 or 001-800-462-4240
Monaco (1)	800-90-288
Netherlands (1)	0800-022-9111
Netherlands Antilles	001-800-872-2881
New Zealand	000-911
Norway	800-190-11
Panama (1)	109
(Canal Zone)(1)	281-0109
Philippines (1)	105-11
Portugal (8)	05017-1-288
San Marino (1)	172-1011
Singapore (3)	800-0111-111
Spain	900-99-00-11
Sweden	020-795-611
Switzerland (1)	0-800-890011
Taiwan (1)	0080-10288-0
Thailand (3,5)	001-999-111-11
United Kingdom (8)	0500-89-0011 or 0800-89-0011
United States (17)	1-800-225-5288
* = Wait for second dial tone.	
1 = Public phones require coin or card deposit.	
3 = AT&T Direct calls cannot be placed to this country from outside the U.S.	

- 5 = Not available from public phones.
 7 = U.S. Military bases only
 8 = May not be available from every phone/pay phone.
 10 = Collect calling only.
 11 = Public phones require local coin payment through the call duration.
 12 = When calling from public phones, use phones marked "Ladatel."
 13 = Available from public phones only.
 15 = Calling Card calls available from select hotels.
 16 = Use phones allowing international access.
 17 = Including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



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